

**MARAD Update**

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From the Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator—

As the Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator, I am pleased to be writing this column for the August edition of the *MARAD Update* in what I hope will be the first of many opportunities for me to connect to our MARAD family, as well as our many constituents outside of MARAD proper.

Beginning with this edition, I hope you will notice some changes to the *MARAD Update* as the staff and I work to make the publication of every edition of this newsletter an eagerly awaited event. To that end, I have decided to present a “door prize” to the first 10 readers to come to the front office (Room 7206 in Headquarters) and tell Peggy Vandeventer that you saw this offer in the *Update*. If you’re not located at Headquarters, call Peggy at (202) 366-5823 or e-mail her at peggy.vandeventer@dot.gov. If you don’t know who Peggy is,

now is a good time to come to the front office and meet her. (She is the deputy maritime administrator’s executive assistant.) A bonus prize will be given to the first person who can tell Peggy which shipyard was recently nominated to the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the “largest pizza order.”

I also wish to personally invite you to submit any questions, comments or concerns you would like me to address in this column in future issues of the *MARAD Update* by submitting them to ella.thomas@dot.gov.

As a final thought, I would like to take this opportunity, along with the rest of the maritime community, to extend my congratulations to Sean Connaughton as the newly confirmed Maritime Administrator. I look forward to working with Sean upon his arrival at MARAD.

Julie A. Nelson